

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method of inhibiting the production of melanin in human skin, comprising topically applying to the skin a composition comprising one or more siRNA oligomers selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-UAGGACCUGCCAGUGCUCUtt-3' (SEQ ID NO: 1)  
3'-ttAUCCUGGACGGUCACGAGA-5' (SEQ ID NO: 2);
- (b) 5'-UCCUGGAAACCAUGACAAAtt-3' (SEQ ID NO: 3)  
3'-ttAGGACCUUUGGUACUGUUU-5' (SEQ ID NO: 4); and
- (c) 5'-CACACCUGUCUUUGUCUUAAtt-3' (SEQ ID NO: 5)  
3'-ttGUGUGGACAGAAACAGAAC-5' (SEQ ID NO: 6);

in an amount effective to inhibit production of melanin.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition is applied to the skin suffering from a hyperpigmented condition selected from the group consisting of age spots, freckles, skin discoloration, and combinations thereof.

18. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the skin is sensitive skin.

19. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition is applied topically at least once daily for at least one week.

20. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the one or more siRNA oligomers is present in an amount of from about 0.0001 wt % to about 10 wt % of the total weight of the composition.

21. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the one or more siRNA oligomers is present in an amount of from about 0.0005 wt % to about 5 wt % of the total weight of the composition.

22. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the one or more siRNA oligomers is present in an amount of from about 0.001 wt % to about 1 wt % of the total weight of the composition.

23. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition comprises a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable vehicle.

24. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition is administered in a liposome delivery vehicle or a transdermal patch.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the composition is administered in a liposome delivery vehicle.

26. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition is administered in a biodegradable microsphere.

27. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition further comprises a sunscreen.

28. (original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the sunscreen is selected from the group consisting of avobenzone, cinnamic acid derivatives, octyl salicylate, oxybenzone, titanium oxide, zinc oxide and combinations thereof.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the cinnamic acid derivative is octylmethoxycinnamate.

30. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the composition further includes an ingredient selected from the group consisting of an alpha hydroxy acid, a beta hydroxy acid, a keto acid, an oxa acid and an oxa diacid.

31-39. (cancelled)